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(54) **Optical switching apparatus and method for use in the construction mode testing of a modular fiber administration system**

(57) A device and method for connecting an optical switch to the optical fibers that terminate on a fiber distribution shelf within a fiber administration system. The optical switch device contains a support plate that is shaped essentially the same as the protective cover of fiber distribution shelf. As such, the support plate of the optical switch device can be joined to a specific fiber

distribution shelf by substituting the support plate for the protective cover. An optical switch is affixed to the support plate, wherein the optical switch is sized not to extend beyond the peripheral boundaries of the support plate. As a result, when the support plate is placed over a fiber distribution shelf, the optical switch joined to the support plate does not obscure any other fiber distribution shelf in the fiber administration system.

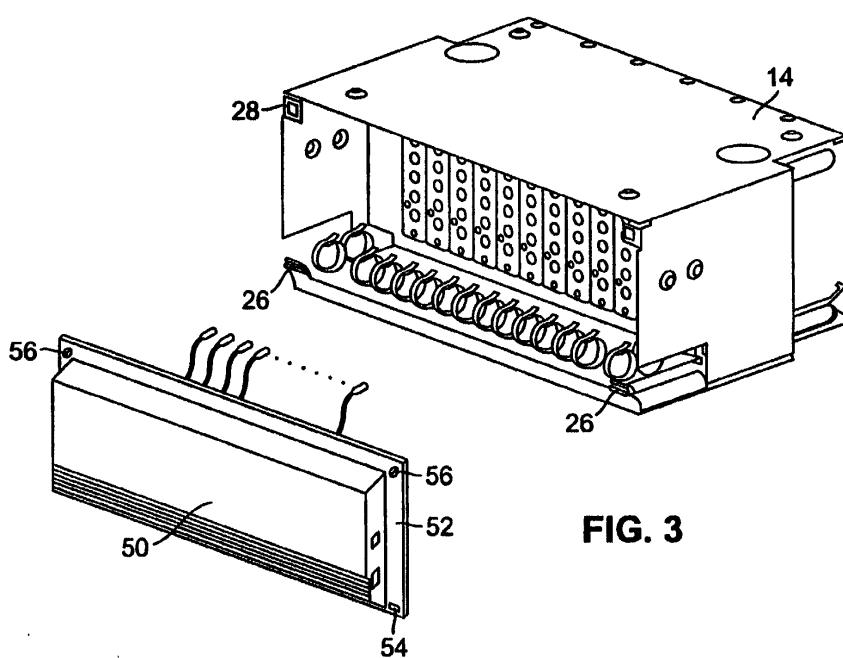


FIG. 3



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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
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			H04Q G02B						
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>24 April 2003</td> <td>Vandevenne, M</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	24 April 2003	Vandevenne, M
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner							
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document							
EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01) X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document									

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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